

Anderson-Calhoun Mine and Mill Superfund Cleanup Community Involvement Plan *Summer/Fall 2007*

The Anderson-Calhoun Mine and Mill site is located in northeast Washington, about 30 miles north of Colville and one mile north of Leadpoint, in Stevens County. The site is a former zinc and barite mine and mill that operated from 1910 until the early 1980s. Following an earlier emergency response action, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be overseeing a more comprehensive cleanup later this year to address hazardous substances remaining on-site that pose unacceptable threats to human health and the environment.

This Community Involvement Plan outlines opportunities for the public to be informed and involved in EPA's investigation and cleanup activities. This plan was developed in consultation with members of the community and state and local agencies, and can be updated at any time as new information becomes available.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, please call **Suzanne Skadowski**, EPA Community Involvement Coordinator, at 800-424-4372 or 206-553-6689 or email: Skadowski.Suzanne@epa.gov.

To see the latest version of this plan and project information, visit EPA's webpage: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/> (Go to *Index*, click on *A* to find *Anderson-Calhoun Mine & Mill*).

What We've Heard So Far

To prepare this community involvement plan, EPA staff conducted telephone interviews with members of the Leadpoint and Colville community in May and June 2007. The interviews helped EPA to understand community concerns and learn how residents would like to be involved in the cleanup process.

Comments were gathered from the Stevens County commissioners, local business owners, and residents in the Leadpoint and Colville communities. In general, we found that community interest in the site is relatively low, in large part due to its remoteness. Some concerns were expressed about groundwater contamination and air quality. A complete list of comments can be found in the appendix to this plan.

Local Concerns Several people that were interviewed expressed concerns about the extent of the contamination and possible health risks. Some people were concerned that contamination might spread into the groundwater and local drinking water wells. Others expressed concern about air pollution during cleanup of the site and the ongoing risks to human and environmental health.

Sharing Information People want to be kept informed about health and environmental issues regarding this site. Opinions varied regarding the best methods to share this information. Suggestions included using fact sheets, updates on the webpage, and advertisements in the local newspaper.

How You Can Stay Informed

EPA will use a variety of tools to keep you informed about our work on the Anderson-Calhoun Mine and Mill. Based on what we heard from the community, residents prefer to hear about the site as follows, in descending order of preference:

Fact Sheets EPA will send fact sheets to update the community on our work. The fact sheets will be mailed to EPA's Anderson-Calhoun mailing list. Please call Suzanne Skadowski at 800-424-4372 or 206-553-6689 if you would like to be added to, or deleted from, this list.

Website Fact sheets, technical documents and other information about the project will be available at the EPA web site: www.epa.gov/r10earth/. Go to *Index*, click on *A* to find *Anderson-Calhoun Mine & Mill*.

Newspaper Announcements EPA will announce any additional public comment periods or meetings in fact sheets or in the local newspapers: the Colville *Statesman-Examiner* and the Spokane *Spokesman-Review*.

Information Repositories Site documents are available for public review at the Colville Public Library, the EPA Coeur d'Alene Field Office, and the EPA Region 10 Superfund Records Center in Seattle. The repositories, which contain all technical documents and reports, will be kept up-to-date.

Recent Activities

- During May and June 2007, EPA staff conducted telephone interviews with a range of residents, local officials, and local business owners.
- Newspaper notices were published in the Colville and Spokane newspapers to announce the June 26 to July 26, 2007 public comment period on the cleanup alternatives.
- A public information repository was established at the Colville Public Library, which contains the administrative record and other site documents for the project.
- An EPA webpage for the project was developed that includes current site information and project documents.

Upcoming Events

- Once cleanup work is completed, EPA will publish a fact sheet and/or newspaper notice describing the cleanup and next steps.

Cleanup and Investigation

In 2002, EPA conducted an emergency response action at the site to deal with immediate health threats. At that time, EPA removed PCB contaminated electrical transformers and other oil-filled electrical equipment, 55-gallon drums of hazardous substances, and an oil storage tank.

After these immediate threats were addressed, the site needed more investigation. Other potential hazards still on the site include an evaporation and settlement pond, tailings piles, a lab dump and debris pile, an oil-stained area near the former drum stockpile, and water-filled mine pits. These hazardous substances remaining on-site still pose unacceptable threats to human health and the environment.

Following the 2002 short-term cleanup action, EPA also investigated whether past and present owners and/or operators could be accountable for more study and cleanup at the site. Three

potentially responsible parties were identified: Blue Tee Corporation, Combustion Engineering Incorporated, and Goldfield Corporation.

EPA entered into an administrative order on consent with the parties in 2004 to conduct an Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis (EE/CA) report. The EE/CA describes cleanup options and recommends a preferred cleanup alternative. The EPA, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Washington State Department of Ecology have worked together to oversee the EE/CA process.

Site History

The Anderson-Calhoun Mine and Mill site is located about 30 miles northeast of Colville, in Stevens County. The entire site covers about 200 acres; however the area affected by contamination is only 92 acres. The North Fork Deep Creek flows from north to south through the site. The site is situated on a valley bottom along an east-facing hillside west of the Selkirk Mountains in and the Deep Creek Valley. Mineral exploration, mining, and milling activities occurred at the site between 1910 and the early 1980s.

Historic mining-related hazards still left at the site include open pits used to mine zinc ores, a flotation mill used to process zinc and barite ores, and mine tailings. The mine and mill have been abandoned since barite processing ended in the early 1980s. The area around the site is rural and is mainly used for forestry, livestock grazing, mining, agriculture, and recreation. There are no homes or schools on or next to the site; however, there are several homes within one-half mile of the site.

For More Information

Look for Updates and Read Site Documents at the Local Information Repository:

Colville Public Library
195 South Oak Street
Colville, Washington 99114
(509) 684-6620

Read Site Documents and Updates on EPA's webpage:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/>

Go to *Index*, click on *A*, and find *Anderson-Calhoun Mine & Mill*.

If you have questions please contact the following people:

General information:

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TTY users may call the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339.

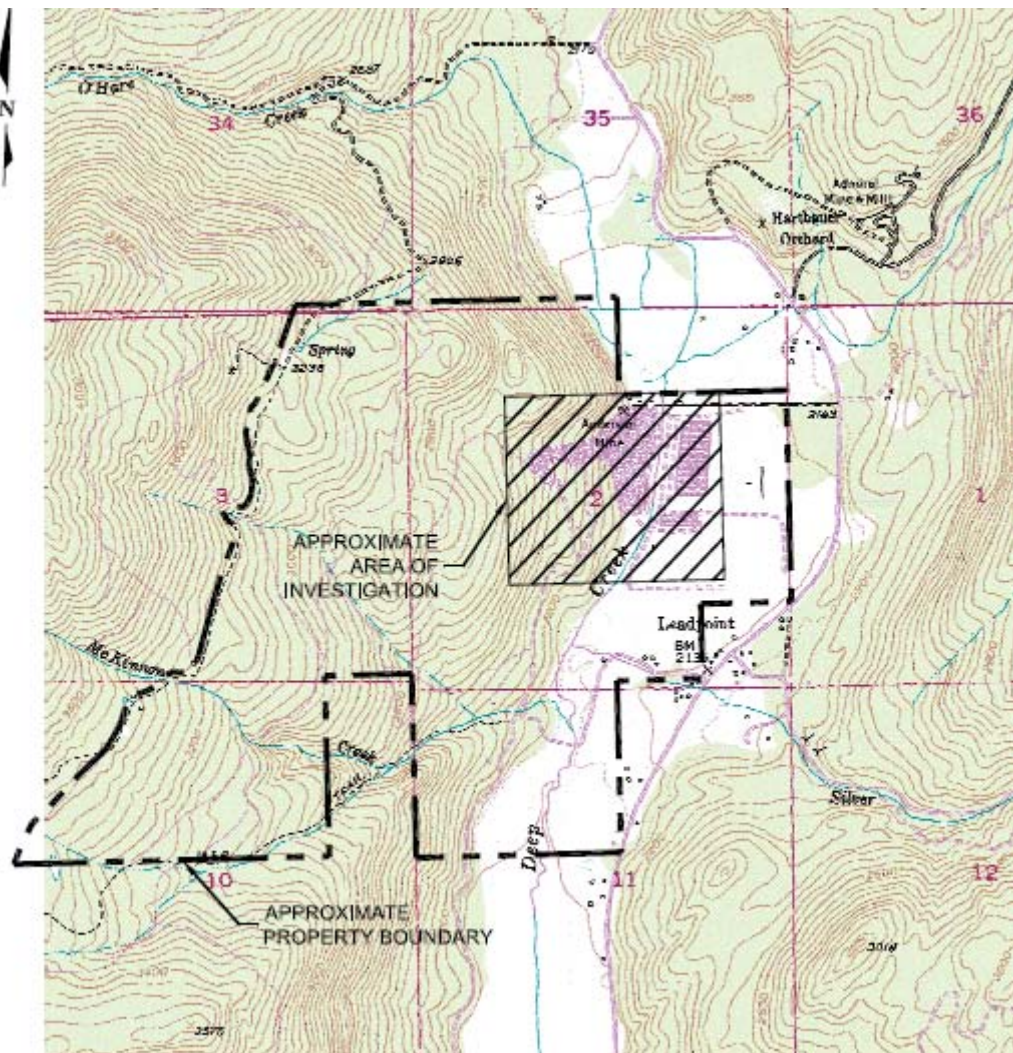


Figure 1: Map of Anderson-Calhoun Mine & Mill

APPENDIX: Notes from Community Interviews

The following comments were gathered from numerous telephone interviews conducted in May and June 2007 with Stevens County commissioners, state agencies, and Colville residents near the site.

Recommendations for Community Involvement

Some people noted that small business owners in the area could post informational flyers about the site if requested and that this would be a good way to inform residents of public notices or meetings.

Most people said that they are aware of the mine and at least some of its historic use. Many residents noted that they have visited the site in the past while hiking, hunting or horseback riding in the area.

County commissioners commented that the site is in a remote, rural area with few residents.

A number of people commented that they would prefer to receive mailed fact sheets or flyers with site information.

Other people commented that they would prefer visiting the website for project updates.

A few people commented that they do not have any internet connection or email but would visit the Colville library for information or read mailed fact sheets.

Concerns about Contamination

Questions came up about whether the contamination has polluted the ground water and if so, in what direction the contamination is moving. Concerns were voiced about possibility of contamination in local wells, particularly since families with children drink the water. [Note: Groundwater monitoring will be conducted as part of long-term monitoring at the site to document the effects of the proposed cleanup action.]

Several residents asked about recent problems in Stevens County with contaminated gravel that might have been used from the Northport (Le Roi Smelter) cleanup site and used in road projects. One resident also mentioned that contaminated gravel might have been used from the Northport cleanup site at area homes. This has some residents worried about the removal of contaminated gravel and soil from the Anderson-Calhoun site to be used elsewhere. [Note: Portions of the property will be addressed by fencing, signage, and deed restrictions, and there will be an Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Plan for post-cleanup maintenance and monitoring at the site.]

Some residents stated that they wanted to know more about the contaminants' possible effect on their property, which is near the site.

Some residents are worried about groundwater contamination downstream of the mine since their water has never been tested.

Concerns were also voiced about air pollution from the mine and tailings piles as well as during the site cleanup.

The Lewis County Commissioners asked about which cleanup technology or combination of technologies EPA would use at this site to deal with the contaminated soil and mine tailings.

Many people commented that they are glad that the mine will finally be cleaned up.

A county commissioner noted that the community is also aware of Upper Columbia and Lake Roosevelt contamination issues.

A county commissioner commented that they would be mainly concerned about PCBs and that Deep Creek is an important resource.

Concerns were voiced about whether the site or the cleanup activities would affect the air quality or drinking water in the area. [Note: Short-term construction impacts such as dust will be controlled by using best management practices (BMPs) during the cleanup.]

One resident commented that when visiting the site years ago it was an eyesore with leaking drums, etc.

One commenter noted that a lot of water has gone into and come out of the mine and is concerned that contamination may have already traveled down Deep Creek to Deep Lake.

Other Issues

Many people wanted to know who is paying for the cleanup, who owns the property, and who is responsible for the contamination. People commented that they shouldn't have to pay for contamination caused by others. [Note: Three Potentially Responsible Parties have been identified for this site and will pay for and conduct the cleanup; they are: Blue Tee Corporation, Combustion Engineering Incorporated, and Goldfield Corporation.]

One resident wanted to know if local workers will be hired to help do the cleanup.

Some people asked whether the County owned the property and if they have liability.

One resident expressed concern about the ponds near the mine, stating that they be left alone or restored for birds and other wildlife.

One commenter wondered if it is worth the cost to clean up the site since contamination is all around and people still live a long time.

One person commented that there are other mines in the area that also need to be cleaned up.